companies. Two Government Companies, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are presently engaged in setting up and operating nuclear power reactors. With respect to the amendment of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Allocation of captive coal blocks

1640. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre and States are divided on revision on coal that is unchanged since August, 2002;

(b) whether Prime Minister at a meeting directed Coal Ministry to review screening criteria in awarding coal blocks for speedy allocation of captive coal blocks and suggested preference be given to power generating companies;

(c) whether it was decided that Coal Ministry would submit report of de-reservation of coal blocks reserved exclusively for CIL to Prime Minister;

(d) whether any interim report has been submitted; and

(e) if so, whether any final decision has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Government had constituted a Committee on 02.06.2005 to consider revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite. In this connection views of all State Governments were obtained. The major coal producing States are in favour of royalty on coal and lignite on *ad-valorem* basis whereas the coal consuming States are in favour of continuation of tonnage based royalty regime.

(b) It has been decided by the Government to give priority to the power sector in allocation of coal blocks. It has further been decided that preference in allocation should be given to power projects of 500 MW and above and steel making capacity of one million tonnes and above.

(c) to (e) The Energy Coordination Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister had taken a decision to de-reserve such coal blocks from the list of coal blocks reserved for CIL which are

not planned to be worked by the CIL by the XI plan period. In implementation of the above decision, 48 coal blocks from CIL area and 33 coal blocks from the non-CIL area have been identified for allocation to Government companies/permissible end-users.

Amendment of MMDR Act and MC Rules

1641. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view to amend Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources available in the State of Rajasthan and Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are considering to strengthen State Government by providing more power by deleting part 'A' and part 'C' of Schedule-I of MMDR Act; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No specific amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources in the State of Rajasthan and Karnataka is under consideration. However, a High Level Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Member Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and to recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the mining sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 20.07.2006.

Coal Reserves in Orissa

†1642. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

(a) whether it is a fact that 61 billion tonnes of coal reserves have still been estimated in the State of Orissa;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.